

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has long collaborated with Ministries of Health (MOHs) in Central Asia to better recognize and respond to serious public health threats in the region. In 1995, CDC formally established an office, CDC Central Asia Region (CDC CAR), in Almaty, Kazakhstan to coordinate activities throughout the region. CDC CAR's aim is to strengthen the capacity to prevent, detect, and control diseases and respond to public health threats.



### **CDC STAFF**

- **6** U.S. Assignees
- 15 Locally Employed



## **AT A GLANCE**

Population: 17,544,274 Per capita income: \$21,580

Life expectancy at birth: W 75/M 66 yrs Infant mortality rate: 25/1000 live births



### **TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH**

- 1. Cardiovascular Diseases
- 2. Neoplasms
- 3. Self-harm & Violence
- 4. Chronic Respiratory Diseases
- 5. Cirrhosis
- 6. Unintentional Injuries
- 7. Diabetes/Urological/ Blood/ Endocrine Disorders
- 8. Transport Injuries
- 9. Diarrheal Diseases
- 10. Neurological Disorders

Source: Population Reference Bureau 2015: Kazakhstan Source: GBD Compare: Kazakhstan, 2015



## **HIV/AIDS**

Support for HIV/AIDS includes direct technical assistance to the MOH and to local partners to support HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs and to strengthen health systems capacity. The program provides support to the MOH in the following areas: HIV prevention, including blood safety and injecting drug use; HIV counseling and testing; laboratory strengthening; HIV care and treatment; and surveillance.

CDC CAR supports six AIDS Centers in Kazakhstan to provide care and treatment services to more than 4,000 of the 18,185 adults living with HIV. CDC CAR also supports five Narcology Centers that 1) provide methadone-assisted treatment services to people who inject drugs (PWID), helping prevent HIV among PWID; 2) improve linkages and integrate services for PWID; and 3) increase the adherence of PWID to antiretroviral treatment.



### **Global Disease Detection**

The Global Disease Detection (GDD) Regional Center in Kazakhstan is part of the CAR GDD Center, one of ten worldwide centers that help countries identify and respond to emerging diseases. The GDD Regional Center collaborates with key partners in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and the Kyrgyz Republic. GDD Regional Centers work with the World Health Organization and MOHs to strengthen core infrastructure requirements (e.g., laboratory detection, clinical surveillance, outbreak investigation and control) to comply with the International Health Regulations (IHR).

## **Global Health Security Agenda/IHR**

In 2014, Kazakhstan was selected as one of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) focus countries. CDC is working with multiple ministries in Kazakhstan to conduct a baseline assessment for IHR and GHSA, which will be used in the development of a 5-year roadmap. Initial exploratory work to establish an emergency operations center has also begun.

# Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program

Since 2003, CDC CAR's Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP CAR) has been building workforce capacity and helping MOHs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan train public health officers. FELTP focuses on applied epidemiology, disease surveillance, outbreak response, laboratory methods, and program evaluation with additional courses in study design and scientific writing. While enrolled, residents continue working in their respective country's health system and are well-positioned to serve both as first responders to outbreaks and as leaders and mentors for future in-country specialists in field epidemiology.

### Influenza

Avian and pandemic influenza response planning and preparedness activities are taking place throughout Kazakhstan. Nine sentinel surveillance sites for influenza-like illness and severe acute respiratory illness have been established along with a National Influenza Center and a laboratory in each surveillance site.

# **Cooperative Biological Engagement Program**

The Cooperative Biological Engagement Program is funded by the Department of Defense through its Defense Threat Reduction Agency with the goal of building epidemiologic, health information, and clinical and laboratory capacity, while focusing on biosecurity for especially dangerous pathogens that could be used for bioterrorism (e.g., Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever).



## **IMPACT IN KAZAKHSTAN**



In 2014-2015, CDC CAR helped Kazakhstan develop national strategic laboratory plans and continues to provide consultation on quality control and quality assurance under a large-scale project to modernize Kazakhstan's laboratories.



CDC CAR developed an electronic HIV case management system used by all AIDS Centers nationwide to provide reliable real-time data on HIV epidemics.



As of 2016, 12 FELTP cohorts have been recruited with >90 having completed training and 23 currently in training.

Since its inception, the program's residents have conducted >220 outbreak investigations and surveillance program evaluations. About 85% of the FELTP CAR graduates work in their respective government's health system.



Kazakhstan is participating in international influenza virus monitoring and contributes local strains to international influenza virus banks.

#### For more information please contact

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